

interdiction efforts along the Southwest border, we do not want you to do that. We want you to provide a massive deployment of Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Customs ships, planes, radar, night vision surveillance equipment and the personnel to man them for an around-the-clock operation designed to totally disrupt the drug trafficking through the eastern Caribbean.

Do whatever it takes now, and we will support you, Mr. President, in seeking whatever funding from Congress that may be necessary.

Mr. President, the current situation, our letter goes on to say, is totally unacceptable. If we can send our troops halfway around the world to protect our interests in Bosnia and the Middle East, surely we can send what forces are necessary to protect our shores from the deadly assault of drug trafficking.

Now, frankly, this is the minimum that should be done now. This is an unfortunate time of year when elections are in progress and people are out there playing politics with all kinds of issues. This is serious. This is a letter that should be written no matter what the political climate. The reality is, drug trafficking from the eastern Caribbean is up substantially, 40 percent, under the new figures, never before released until today, of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Their estimates are 40 percent is coming through the eastern Caribbean.

Mr. President, do something about it. Take the actions that are necessary. Let us stop the drugs from coming in through Puerto Rico.

BIPARTISAN RETREAT IN FEBRUARY WILL BE HELPFUL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post has termed the efforts of our bipartisan retreat task force as a "politics of politeness." I prefer to term our efforts as "indispensable decency." There is no doubt in my mind that the rancor, the hostility, the belligerence and the general lack of good will we have witnessed in this Congress has interfered with the business of the House and has undermined our ability to serve the American people well.

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THE BIPARTISAN RETREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, our goal is a simple one: to fan the flames of cordiality and congeniality, with the hope of producing harmony. Does that mean that everyone in this House will

be identical, the same, or will agree with each other? Harmony does not mean we must all speak the same language or sing the same tune. Indeed, an orchestra achieves harmony with many different instruments and a range of sounds. One does not have to surrender one's philosophy or one's independence to appreciate that, in the end, we are all dependent on each other. We are, in fact, interdependent. We can disagree, however, without being disagreeable.

We propose to gather over several days, early next year, Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, women and men. With our families and staff we will take a short train ride to a place of assembly. Once there we will talk, talk to each other, and we will listen and, I hope, be heard. We will learn from each other and teach; hopefully, we will communicate with each other.

But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, we will have fun; fun getting to know each other as human beings first before we learn what the philosophical differences are. We will learn our commonality as human beings.

We expect to discuss such terms as conflict management, coalition building, sources of information and, most of all, courtesy, respect and civility.

There will be lots of time for social interaction. Plans are being made for quality entertainment. Most importantly, this will not come at the expense of the taxpayers. This retreat is a chance to give us in the Congress a chance to act in a more deliberate and civil way.

Now, there are doubters and naysayers and detractors. There always are. There are always those who say this will be of no value and no one will come. But since we have begun meeting to plan this retreat, I have been encouraged by the firm determination of those who conceived this idea and those who are organizing it, despite the resistance. Some of them have spoken tonight, those who are planning.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the House owes a great debt of gratitude to our colleagues, the gentleman from Colorado, Democrat DAVID SKAGGS, and the gentleman from Illinois, Republican RAY LAHOOD. They have dared to be different, to make a difference in a community of hostility.

We, therefore, must ask each of us as Members tonight to make a commitment to civility. We ask that each Member promise to be faithful to true standards of statesmanship, dignity, decorum, geniality and protocol. That commitment and promise can begin by each Member completing the survey that has been circulated by the task force. If there are Members who have not completed that survey, we ask that you indeed do that.

We want to make sure our colleagues are involved every step of the way, and they can certainly have an involvement in that. Complete the survey and join the harmony, not necessarily ren-

dering your thoughts or position, but rendering your rancor, your incivility and your indecency to the hope of making this place more decent.

Come plan to have fun and to make sure we start off on the right foot for next season.

OPPOSING THE PRESIDENT'S SHAMEFUL VETO OF THE PAR- TIAL BIRTH ABORTION PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight on behalf of the thousands of Oklahomans and millions of Americans who have swamped our offices with letters, phone calls, postcards and many, many petitions in opposition to the President's shameful veto of the partial birth abortion ban.

I have here a stack of petitions with thousands of names that concerned Oklahomans gathered throughout the State. The citizens were practicing their constitutional right and constitutional responsibility to petition their government with their grievances. I was proud to have these names with me on the floor of the House and to share them with my colleagues last Thursday when this body voted to override the President's veto.

Today I bring them to the floor once again on the day of the vote in the other Chamber. Regrettably the Senate did not garner the necessary vote total to complete the task of overriding the President's veto that allows this brutal procedure to continue.

I believe it is critical that we continue working in the 105th Congress to bring to an end this brutal late-term abortion procedure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. STENHOLM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SMITH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the house, the gentleman from Washington [Mr.